

Fort Bliss,
7th Cavalry Buildings
U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center
and Fort Bliss
City of El Paso
El Paso County
Texas

HABS No. TX-3339

HABS

TEX.

71 - ELPA,

7 -

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
P.O. BOX 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

FORT BLISS,
7TH CAVALRY BUILDINGS
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY
7TH CAVALRY BUILDINGS (Fort Bliss, Texas)

I. INTRODUCTION

Location: On the southern section of the Parade Ground and between Pershing and Sheridan Roads, Fort Bliss, Texas

Quad: El Paso, Texas, 1:24,000

UTM:	Building 440, 13 364 710 3519 150
UTM:	Building 448, 13 364 760 3519 170
UTM:	Building 445, 13 364 610 3519 045
UTM:	Building 452, 13 364 650 3519 055
UTM:	Building 458, 13 364 530 3519 050

Date of Construction: 1919-1920

Present Owner: U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas

Present Use: Army chaplain's offices and youth activities to be replaced by landscaping. Projected date of removal is fiscal year 1988. Six buildings of same appearance are to be retained and extensively repaired.

Significance: The 7th Cavalry buildings were part of large enlisted men's cantonment, most of which were demolished in 1934-1935. The U-shaped and rectangular one story brick Greek Revival buildings were designed by War Department Construction Division architects and built by Constructing Quartermasters L.D. Blauvelt and Harvey R. Field

Historian

Herbert C. Morrow, August 1988

II. OUTLINE HISTORY OF FORT BLISS

A. THE FORMATIVE YEARS, 1890-1898

Congress authorized funds to begin construction of "New Fort Bliss" in 1890. It was temporarily named New Fort Bliss to distinguish it from "Old Fort Bliss" which was located at the Hart's Mill site near the Rio Grande River and the international border with Mexico. The new site was the sixth location of Fort Bliss in the El Paso, Texas area since it was established in 1854.

The continued rebuilding of a military post in the El Paso area was supported by military leaders due to the post's strategic location on the Southwest border. The border had been the site of a variety of disturbances and crisis situations in the generation before 1890. There had been the Cortina War (1859-1860), the Kickapoo and Mescalero Fighting (1873-1877), and Apache Fighting (1860-1886), as well as numerous bandit and Indian episodes. The most famous episode in nineteenth century American history was the Andrew Johnson Administration dispatch of the Sheridan Expedition to the border after the Civil War.[1]

In light of this generation of border crisis situations, American military leaders thought that modest (two and four company) posts should be maintained along the border with Mexico. Thus, Fort Bliss was recognized by military leaders as important for its strategic location at the center of the Southwest border and its proximity to the El Paso railroad complex. El Paso had other factors in the 1890s making the construction of a new post advantageous. These were a vigorous trade with Mexico, mining operations, mail service, banking and utilities, reasonable climate, and a co-operative local citizenry.[2]

The final appearance of Fort Bliss at its new and present location was largely due to the work of the Constructing Quartermaster officer, Captain George Ruhlen. Ruhlen was assisted by F. A. Gartner, architect and civil engineer, and Edward H. Offley, chief clerk. The general design of the post and the buildings was determined by Ruhlen, with modifications by the Quartermaster General's Office. Ruhlen's planning also took into account the future expansion of the post even though the plans provided for a traditional four company infantry post. He assumed in his first plans that the post would provide quarters for a commanding officer, a surgeon, four captains, eight lieutenant's, as well as two enlisted men's barracks.[3] The final post plan was expanded to include fourteen officers' quarters and four enlisted men's barracks, mess hall, hospital, pump house, commissary and quartermaster warehouses and other

service buildings.

During this first building period in the new post, the Classical Revival style dominated with Greek Revival and Queen Anne influences in building trim and wood porch ornamental detail. Construction was in brick, with the use of ornamental terra cotta gable end trim and red sandstone bush hammered and ashlar sills, lintels and water tables. The gable roofs had tin shingles. The Officers' quarters and Enlisted men's barracks had wood porches, and the Officers' quarters porches were screened. Buildings in the Quartermaster group were primarily grey rubble and ashlar limestone with bush hammered and ashlar red sandstone trim and with gable roofs and tin shingles.

When the post opened, four companies of 18th Infantry became the first troops to occupy the buildings, and they provided the basic garrison during the 1890s. In October, 1894 the 18th Infantry arrived from Fort Clark, Texas. Captain William M. McLaughlin, the senior officer of this battalion, became the first post commander. The regimental commander of the 18th Infantry, Colonel Henry M. Lazelle, was on sick leave that October. Lazelle arrived the following month to assume command of Fort Bliss. When the fort opened, the Indian Wars were over and the 1890s passed quietly at Fort Bliss.[4]

In the fall of 1895, Troop A of the 5th Cavalry was ordered to the post, and stables were constructed for the horses. It was the first time in four decades of existence that the cavalry was stationed at Fort Bliss on a permanent basis. Indeed, this troop of cavalry was a harbinger of a trend that later established Fort Bliss as the major horse cavalry post on the Southwest border.[5]

B. FORT BLISS AND THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR PERIOD (1898-1902)

The short war (April to August, 1898) had immediate effect on the garrison at Fort Bliss. The four companies of the 18th Infantry and Troop A of the 5th Cavalry were sent first to New Orleans and then to wartime service in the Philippines and Puerto Rico. Through the Spanish-American War, Fort Bliss had a skeletal garrison. From July, 1898 until January, 1899, Fort Bliss was garrisoned by volunteer troops including the Texas Volunteer Cavalry and then by a company of the 3rd Texas Volunteer Infantry. These small units were needed to perform garrison duty while regular Army troops were abroad.[6]

Two Fort Bliss units served in the Spanish-American War. Companies B and G of the 18th Infantry were the first American units to go into the trenches in Manila. Troop A of the 5th

Cavalry scouted for its brigade and skirmished with the Spaniah at Hermiguerras and Las Marias. These were the only units with any long association with Fort Bliss. Their numbers and losses were a minor fraction of the over 112,000 American troops who served in the Philippines. Therefore, the contribution of Fort Bliss to the Spanish-American War was small, but worthy for a four company post. By this war effort, Fort Bliss demonstrated that it deserved consideration in future United States military planning.[7]

C. FORT BLISS AND THE EARLY NEW ARMY PERIOD (1902-1910)

The years between the Spanish-American War and World War 1 are sometimes called the New Army period by American military historians. This period passed quietly at Fort Bliss. The post remained a small post on the distant frontier of the Southwest border. It was not until the next period in Fort Bliss history with increased crisis episodes resulting from the Mexican Revolution that Fort Bliss was moved into its role as a major horse cavalry post on the border.[8]

During the early New Army period, Fort Bliss fell into considerable disrepair. Building interiors and exteriors had to be refurbished. Lieutenant colonel H.H. Adams of the 18th Infantry commanded the post in 1902, and he reported only nine of the thirty-nine buildings were in good condition. He declared that the temporary pump house was worthless and in bad condition. The hospital steward's quarters and the stables required extensive repairs, and the remaining twenty-seven buildings on post were "in need of repairs." Building interiors and exteriors were repaired in 1905 and 1906, and the post received landscaping and road improvements. Funds voted for this purpose indicated that Fort Bliss was still considered important due to its strategic location and proximity to the El Paso railroad complex. Brigadier General Albert L. Meyer argued in 1909 for continued support of Fort Bliss because of its strategic location: "This post is considered of much importance in connection with the control of the border and should be taken care of." [9]

American Military planners early in the New Army period understood the importance of Fort Bliss' location in planning for the future. Brigadier General Frederick D. Grant, son of the famous Civil War general and in 1903 commander of the Department of Texas, pointed to the importance of railroad communications and the need for a post in El Paso:

One of the first considerations which must enter into the maintenance of military stations along the

Mexican frontier is the necessity for absolute command or control in time of war or other great public danger of any or all of the great international railroad lines which have so extensively grown in the past twenty years. For this reason El Paso must always be regarded as a strategic point, on account of being the most important railroad junction, next to Fort Worth and Houston, in [the] Southwestern United States. [10]

In the summer of 1904, a new department commander, Brigadier General Jesse M. Lee, toured Fort Bliss and wrote a report generally critical of the post and its condition prior to the repairs in 1905 and 1906. When General Lee inspected the post in 1904, it was much the same as when it was founded with quarters for fourteen officers, four barracks for enlisted men housing 100 men each, and stables for a troop of cavalry. Fort Bliss was garrisoned by a battalion of the 29th Infantry at the time with its companies seriously under strength. There were only seven experienced enlisted men and 100 "new recruits". The 29th Infantry remained at Fort Bliss until 1906 when it left for Fort Logan, Kentucky. While General Lee thought Fort Bliss might become more important in the future, for the present, Lee said that the post with its four company garrison was "ample in every respect." Lee suggests that Fort Bliss was in a quiet period as a small and tranquil infantry post. His remarks foreshadow that the post was to become a major cavalry post due to the strategic location at the center of the Southwest border with Mexico.[11]

D. FORT BLISS AND THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION (1910-1920)

Fort Bliss was located on the edge of Mexico's northern frontier during the Mexican Revolution of 1910-1920 --- one of the great upheavals of Latin American history. The revolution determined the main course of Fort Bliss' history and its growth until World War II. The events of the revolution led to the rise of Fort Bliss as a major horse cavalry post, and set the stage for major post growth and expansion.[12]

Revolutionary fighting in Mexico spilled over the Rio Grande River and the international border with Mexico. Border violations, shooting across the border, arms smuggling, bandit raids, and other problems caused the increase of American military presence along the border. For the first time, as a result of the Mexican Revolution, Fort Bliss played a significant role in local, regional, and national history. The post also

played a significant role in the international confrontations that resulted from its location on the border.[13]

The most famous event of the Mexican Revolution in American history was the Pershing Expedition of 1916-1917. The event was a turning point in American military history. The Pershing Expedition was the first major test of the New Army in the twentieth century. Airplanes were used for the first time in field situations, and motorized transport and new logistics were tested. For instance, the American military historian Clarence C. Clendenen wrote the following: "It is no exaggeration to say that the Punitive Expedition of 1916 gives continuity between the American soldier of the Civil War and the Indian wars, and the American soldier of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam." Clendenen also said: "It is not too much to say that the Mexican Punitive Expedition of 1916 and 1917 was a training school for the greater war [World War I] that was soon to follow." [14]

When the Mexican Revolution began in 1910, Fort Bliss was a small cog in the chain of forts on or near the international border with Mexico, but it was located at a strategic point. In June 1910 the post was garrisoned by four companies of the 23rd Infantry, the regimental band, a machine gun platoon, and a handful of casual soldiers. About the same time Brigadier General Earl D. Thomas, commander of the Department of Colorado was recommending that the post should be enlarged to accommodate a regiment of infantry. This need for an increased garrison at the post was echoed in June 1912 by one American officer who predicted: "Owing to the prospect of continued troubles in Mexico and the strategic position of [Fort Bliss] it will probably have to be garrisoned for an indefinite period." [15]

During the Mexican Revolution, Fort Bliss' functions on the border increased. It was a central base for American border patrols, and it played a major role during the Pershing Expedition. To accommodate the National Guard mobilization and build up of other troops pouring into Fort Bliss, a ring of auxiliary camps was built around the post and around the El Paso area. Troops patrolling from Fort Bliss attempted to control the flow of weapons into Mexico. In addition, the post was established as a reception center for Mexican refugees, wounded civilians and soldiers, and prisoners. Throughout the 1910-1920 period, Fort Bliss served as the major supply center for American troops in the Southwest.[16]

As the Mexican Revolution continued in the early 1910s with unrest and increased border episodes in northern Mexico, the Taft Administration initiated a major mobilization on the border. On 6 March 1911 a Maneuver Division was created at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio. Assembling the Maneuver Division required

the largest mobilization since the Spanish-American War. During the mobilization at San Antonio, Fort Bliss had considerable mobilization at the same time. The 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry arrived from Fort Meade, South Dakota on 12 February 1911; the headquarters, two troops, and machine gun platoon of the 4th Cavalry arrived from Fort Snelling, Minnesota on 13 March. Of these units, the headquarters, machine gun troop, and three troops of the 4th Cavalry were stationed at Fort Bliss, and the other units were located in auxiliary camps.[17]

A period of quiet settled over the border after Juarez was captured in May 1911 by forces of Francisco Madero. President Diaz resigned, and some troops in the north were redistributed. However, unrest erupted again in several border areas, and new American troops were sent to Fort Bliss and the El Paso area. A battalion of the 18th Infantry arrived on 13 February 1912 from Whipple Barracks, Arizona. The 2nd Cavalry returned from the Philippines and was sent to Fort Bliss. This was the first full regiment of horse cavalry to be assigned at the post. The 13th Cavalry was also moved from Fort Riley, Kansas. These troops were sent to perform patrol duty to prevent raids upon American ranches in Texas and Arizona.[18]

The deployment of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment from Fort Bliss in 1912 was typical of the tactical use of cavalry to maintain the border during the years of the Mexican Revolution. The regimental historian of the 2nd Cavalry wrote the following:

When the Second Cavalry reached Fort Bliss, Texas, in 1912, the Mexican border trouble was at [its] height, causing a constant patrol of the area near the international line. The regiment remained at this post, except for the Second Squadron, which was sent southeast from Fort Bliss to protect an area often attacked by Mexican bandits. The troops were stationed as follows: Squadron Headquarters and Troop E at Sierra Blanca, Troop H at Fort Hancock, Troop G at Finlay, and Troop F at Presidio in the Big Bend of the Rio Grande River...

The work of the troops consisted of guarding property, patrolling the area for signs of bandits, and an occasional chase after a party of them who had raided a ranch. [19]

The most important American operations on the border started after the forces of the ex-Caranzista General Pancho Villa raided Columbus, New Mexico on 9 March 1916. The United States border was crossed by Mexican revolutionary forces and seventeen Americans were killed with seven wounded. On 10 March,

an American military force under Brigadier General John J. Pershing crossed the border to pursue the "outlaws" who had attacked Columbus. Pershing's Punitive Expedition included troops from Fort Bliss and other units from the border. They entered Mexico on 15 March 1916 in pursuit of Villa and his troops.[20]

While the Pershing Expedition was in Mexico, the 8th Cavalry garrisoned Fort Bliss. At this time the post played a major support role in the campaign with the post hospital designated as a base hospital for all troops of the Southern Department. Supplies for the Punitive Expedition moved through El Paso and Fort Bliss. In addition, when the National Guard was mobilized in May, 1916 thousands of these troops from thirteen states were garrisoned at Fort Bliss and at auxiliary camps in the surrounding area.[21]

One record demonstrating the importance of Fort Bliss is the number of troops stationed there. In 1910, there were 336 officers and men stationed at the post. By March 1916 when the Pershing Expedition entered Mexico, there were 1,078. Six years later the Southern Department of the Army contained over 42,000 troops with sixty percent of these deployed along the border.[22]

Fort Bliss experienced one of its largest building periods during these years. Construction continued in the Classical Revival style with less ornamental trim and strong Greek Revival influences. Three-story brick enlisted men's barracks with natural concrete trim, concrete and brick porches, and hip roofs with green asbestos shingles now dominated one side of the parade ground. New officers' quarters bungalows with wide overhanging roofs and in grey rubble and ashlar limestone were built beside the two-story brick buildings. Brick Noncommissioned Officers' quarters and service and storage buildings were part of this new construction. Additionally, the four original three-story barracks received new concrete and brick porches replacing the original wood porches, and green asbestos shingles replaced the tin shingle roofs.[23]

The Mexican Revolutionary War years at Fort Bliss also attracted famous figures in American military history. John J. Pershing's association is well known. George S. Patton Jr. the famous commander of the Third Army in World War II, was stationed at Fort Bliss during the Punitive Expedition as a second lieutenant with the 8th Cavalry Regiment. First Lieutenant James L. Collins, the brother of J. Lawton ("Lightening Joe") Collins of World War II fame also served Pershing as an aide de camp in 1915. Colonel Peyton March was stationed at Fort Bliss with the 8th Field Artillery in 1916, and he eventually became Army Chief of Staff in 1918. March was Chief of Staff through the remaining

World War I months until June, 1921. Major General Hugh Scott, Army Chief of Staff from November, 1914 to September 1917, arrived on the border in the Spring of 1916. While the Pershing Expedition was in Mexico, General Scott and Major General Frederick Funston, Commander of the Southern Department, negotiated unsuccessfully with Mexican War Minister Alvaro Obregon, in meetings on both sides of the border. Lieutenant Colonel Selah R.H. "Tommy" Tompkins of the 7th Cavalry was a colorful figure in the Pershing Expedition and was associated with Fort Bliss in the 1920s. Tompkins commanded the 7th Cavalry at the Juarez Race Track Skirmish of 1919. His brother Frank Tompkins was a major in the 13th Cavalry, and wrote a valuable primary account of the Pershing Punitive Expedition, Chasing Villa. [24]

The Mexican Revolutionary War period at Fort Bliss is a milestone marking the transition of Fort Bliss from a four company infantry post to Fort Bliss as the major permanent horse cavalry post on the border. The dramatic events of the era during the Mexican Revolution were the Columbus Raid, the Pershing Expedition, the National Guard Mobilization, the Juarez Race Track Skirmish, and other episodes which focused attention to the Southwest border and to the strategic importance of Fort Bliss. [25]

E. FORT BLISS AND WORLD WAR I

By the time the United States entered World War I, the Mexican Revolution had already influenced the build up of Fort Bliss as a major military installation. The post's first duty to the war effort was as an enlistment post. During the war years, Fort Bliss was surrounded by auxiliary camps where support units were stationed and where troops were mobilized for the European war. Several training schools were established, and the Departmental Base Hospital at Fort Bliss became a United States Base Hospital. Many units were trained and passed through Fort Bliss on their way to the European theater, and after the war, the post became a demobilization area. [26]

After the American Declaration of War in April, 1917, Fort Bliss supplied units directly to the war effort in Europe. Units of the 7th Infantry were sent immediately to Europe from Fort Bliss. These units had not finished training in Europe when they, in June 1918, relieved the 4th Marine Brigade in the bloody fighting in Belleau Wood. They also fought along the Marne River during the following month. Other units that passed through Fort Bliss were the 16th Infantry, the 23rd Infantry, three batteries of field artillery, three engineer units, one machine gun

battalion, and one trench mortar battery. In addition, several units from auxiliary camps were trained and processed at the post on their way to Europe including three infantry regiments, one machine gun battalion, three engineer units, and three artillery batteries.[27]

Although Fort Bliss made a significant, but not unique contribution to the war effort, other posts in the Southwest and the South performed similar tasks. For instance, the Southern Department, at the time, consisted of fifty-six posts, camps, and stations in Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. In Texas, alone, there were twelve other sites performing similar activities to the war effort. In its role as a demobilization center, Fort Bliss, again, was not unusual. The Report of the Secretary of War for 1919 lists thirteen demobilization camps and posts in Texas, and it did not even include Fort Bliss in the listing.[28]

Fort Bliss grew to its status as the future home of a major horse cavalry installation through its participation in the Mexican Revolution. Its significant, but not unique, role in World War I continued the post's development, but the war did not establish it as an important place different from other posts in the nation.[29]

World War I was the first time that extensive training programs were established at Fort Bliss. Both artillery and infantry training became part of the role of Fort Bliss, and the auxiliary camps and target ranges were expanded in the post area. At the same time, a cavalry school was established at the post which set the stage for the later cavalry mobilization. In addition, training was given in the Army Air Service which was a developing arm of the Army.[30]

F. CREATION OF A PERMANENT CAVALRY POST (1916-1921)

On 21 September 1921, the First Cavalry Division was formally established as a regular Army Division at Fort Bliss. The first commander of the division was Major General Robert L. Howze. The division consisted of a Division Headquarters unit, a First Cavalry Brigade, composed of the 1st and 5th Cavalry Regiments; a Second Cavalry Brigade, composed of the 7th and 8th Cavalry Regiments; the 82nd Field Artillery Battalion (Horse); the 8th Mounted Engineers; the 1st Medical Squadron; the 1st Signal Troop; the Division Trains. Most of the division was posted at Fort Bliss with only the 1st and 5th Cavalry located at Camp Marfa and Fort Clark, Texas.[31]

Earlier, in December 1917, the Fifteenth Cavalry Division

was organized at Fort Bliss with its headquarters at the auxiliary sites of Camp Owen D. Beirne and Camp Fort Bliss. This was an interim World War I organization which existed for slightly more than a year. The 5th, 7th, and 8th Cavalry regiments formed the Division's Second Brigade, and the 17th Cavalry was assigned to the Division's Third Brigade. The 11th and 13th Cavalry units, although in auxiliary camps at Fort Bliss at the time, were never assigned to the Fifteenth Cavalry Division. Although six cavalry regiments were designated for the Division, it was never fully staffed. This interim Division was demobilized in March, 1919. However, the military planners' decision to place a concentration of cavalry at Fort Bliss set the stage for the construction of permanent cantonments for the 7th Cavalry Regiment, and for the 82nd Field Artillery at Fort Bliss.[28] The Fifteenth Cavalry Regiment was also the forerunner of the First Cavalry Division which was part of Fort Bliss from 1921 to 1943.[32]

Fort Bliss became known as the home of the First Cavalry Division. No unit in the history of Fort Bliss had a longer association with the post than the First Cavalry Division had. The division dominated the future history of Fort Bliss until 1943 when the division was ordered to the Pacific theater.[33]

The development of Fort Bliss as a major horse cavalry post was an anomaly of military history of the Interwar period. Fort Bliss was established as a major cavalry installation at a time when the cavalry arm in the United States and elsewhere in the world was in decline. The bloody battlefields of World War I demonstrated that the future lay with the airplane and tank as weapons of the future. The horse cavalry was never given the chance to adequately demonstrate its effectiveness in the war, and its future development and continuation appeared bleak.[34]

In the U.S. Army the cavalry constituted approximately 8.3 percent of the total strength of the regular Army in the 1920s. The greatest drop in cavalry numbers came in 1922, when the 15th, 16th, and 17th regiments became inactive in the United States, and the absolute strength of the cavalry declined by 53 percent during the decade.[35]

At a time when the nation's cavalry arm was declining, Fort Bliss became a major horse cavalry post. American military planners saw the need of an adequate horse cavalry at Fort Bliss at its strategic border location near the hub of the El Paso rail center. The events of the Mexican Revolution were still fresh in the planners' minds, and they considered Fort Bliss the logical base for cavalry patrols to cover the international border with Mexico. In view of the suitable terrain, climate, and the

expanse of area for maneuvering horse cavalry units, the post was considered ideal for the horse cavalry.[36]

The background for the creation of the First Cavalry Division and enlargement of Fort Bliss was initiated by the Mexican Revolution. Cavalry units were sent to the border to meet the growing crisis episodes, and seven regiments of cavalry accompanied the Pershing Expedition into Mexico. When the Pershing Expedition returned four of the cavalry units --- the 5th, 7th, 11th, and 13th went into encampment at the auxiliary camp at Camp Stewart, while the 8th Cavalry Regiment remained at Fort Bliss.[37]

At this time, the El Paso Chamber of Commerce seized on the fact that there were five regiments of horse cavalry at Fort Bliss and Camp Stewart, and lobbied for the construction of new cavalry cantonments to be built at or near Fort Bliss in order to keep the regiments at Fort Bliss. This lobbying by the Chamber of Commerce and the military planners' need to maintain horse cavalry in a strategic location on the border resulted in additional land being leased adjacent to the post. Later, the 7th and 8th Cavalry buildings and the Eighth Corps Area Depot warehouses were constructed on these lands. Major General Robert L. Howze said the success of the project resulted from the Chamber of Commerce arguments and the lease they obtained to expand Fort Bliss property.[38] Therefore, the facilities and equipment were available, and the cavalry regiments were already in place to properly establish a cavalry division.

The construction of two cavalry regimental cantonments of approximately 160 structures each was part of the this large building period. Greek Revival style utilitarian one-story, gable roof, brick buildings described later in this report dominated much of the construction. The cantonments' stables and service buildings were of wood construction. The following buildings were also constructed: Veterinary infirmary, stable, and corral; wheelwright shop; two brick laundries; band stand; new sales commissary; dancing pavilion; wagon shed for the Medical Department; brick garage for officers' cars and additions and repairs to many of the older buildings. Two metal airplane hangers, and the metal Eighth Corps Area Depot warehouses were part of the massive build up of Fort Bliss as a major horse cavalry post.[39]

G. FORT BLISS IN THE 1920s

Fort Bliss emerged from the decade of the Mexican Revolution as a major cavalry installation with a strategic

mission of protecting the Southwest border. This long term task and background of the Mexican Revolution accounts in part for the ability of Fort Bliss to grow during the 1920s. Although the decade of the 1920s was a time of peace, isolationism, and fiscal austerity in the United States, Fort Bliss continued its growth as a major cavalry post.[40]

The post had mushroomed in size in the 1910s, and had outgrown its 1890 original post construction. Post World War I Fort Bliss was badly overcrowded. The military reservation was taken up by buildings, quarters, and stables for the 7th and 8th Cavalry, the 82nd Field Artillery, Army Air Service, the 8th Mounted Engineers, a battalion of signal corps, motor transport corps and their repair shops, storage warehouse, a wireless station, water works, an incinerator, and a military cemetery. The garrison totaled about 8,000 men. No drill or maneuvering ground for the nearly 7,000 mounted troops, or landing field space for the nearly forty planes of the Army Air Service were available. A proposal to purchase 2000 acres adjoining the east side of Fort Bliss failed, however, due to the prevailing isolationist and austerity policies.[41]

On 1 January 1925 Major General Robert L. Howze, commander of the Eighth Corps, including Fort Bliss, argued forcefully for expanding the post. Howze told the Congressional Committee the following:

Fort Bliss is, and will continue to be, the most important strategical point along the United States Mexican border, as long as the international boundary remains where it is. The 'Paso del Norte' is the natural route from Mexico into the United States and vice versa. ... It must be protected; hence the present and continued necessity for a military post of importance in the vicinity of El Paso. [42]

Fort Bliss had another factor in its favor which distinguished it from other posts. Its location in the Southwest with vacant surrounding territory, made it suitable for training artillery and cavalry. In fact, there was room for expansion of the post when fiscal policies could be eased to purchase new land adjoining the post. By 1926 funds were available from Congress to purchase 1,059 acres. The expansion of the 1920s included the addition of Biggs Field (airfield), Castner Range (artillery and target range), and Beaumont Hospital to Fort Bliss.[43]

The building period during the 1920s, after the initial 1919-1921 expansion to establish a cavalry division at Fort Bliss, slowed due to fiscal restraints and lack of post property on which to build. In 1921, the 400 bed William Beaumont General

Hospital buildings were built on land one mile from the original post area. The hospital construction was followed by additional construction to establish new Biggs Field, an Army Air Service airfield, which opened in January, 1925, and moved and expanded further west in the following year.[44]

The decade of the 1920s at Fort Bliss saw a post that overcame fiscal restraint. It was able to maintain itself and even to expand. It was to succeed due to the virtue of its strategic location as well as the importance of the post for railroad and airplane communications, and for its available space to expand for training cavalry and field artillery. Therefore, it can be claimed that the growth of Fort Bliss during the 1920s defied national trends of isolationism and fiscal restraint.[45]

H. FORT BLISS IN THE 1930s

In the 1930s as the Great Depression was starting across the country, Fort Bliss made further efforts to expand. Fort Bliss was still perceived as an important post during the early 1930s in the aftermath of the Great Crash of October, 1929. The importance of the post can be seen in the United States Congress when the history of House Resolution 2030 was examined in debates on the House floor. The bill would allow the balance of \$275,000 allotted in 1925 to be spent at Fort Bliss in 1930. Brigadier General George V.H. Moseley addressed the House Military Affairs Committee on the value of Fort Bliss. His testimony summarized a theme heard often in the past: "[Fort Bliss] is important because of the Mexican situation and the border situation." He also commented, "It is a most important railroad center." [46]

The congressional debates on the bill continued with old animosities toward Mexico appearing. Congressman Henry M. Wurzbach (Republican of Texas) reminded the House of the Columbus, New Mexico raid fourteen years earlier. Only a year before this debate, units of the First Cavalry from Fort Bliss were deployed to Douglas, Arizona to protect the border during the Jose Escobar Revolution. Further, Congressman Thomas L. Blanton (Democrat of Texas) said that "a large cavalry force at Fort Bliss," was "the only thing that puts respect into the hearts of revolutionary Mexicans and Mexican outlaws." [47]

Fort Bliss was at this time the largest cavalry post in the nation, and the arguments turned to questions about whether the horse cavalry was now outmoded with the new motorized transport available. However, the arguments for H.R. 2030 prevailed due to testimony similar to the following by Brigadier

General Moseley, "in that section of the country it would be utterly impossible and foolish to abandon the cavalry because there are times and there are places where motors can not go and where you have to have cavalry." Moseley gave an example of a cavalry unit movement in the Southwest. He pointed out that the cavalry rode from Fort Bliss to Columbus on a direct route of about 150 miles; drifting sands forced motor transport to take a route twice as long.[48]

The resolution (H.R. 2030) passed and Fort Bliss continued in its role as the last cavalry installation with a strategic role as a cavalry post. Fort Riley, Kansas remained the home of the Second Cavalry Division with a strength similar to Fort Bliss. However, the cavalry mission at Fort Riley was largely of tradition and a cavalry school without the strategic role in a potential crisis area. Fort Riley, for instance, continued to maintain the cavalry school training facility in existence since 1892. Fort Bliss, in contrast, retained its strategic mission as a cavalry post to cover the Mexican border.[49]

The building period of the 1930s continued Fort Bliss' growth. For instance, the extensive construction of quarters for Noncommissioned Officers and their families mushroomed. This construction was tied to the government's efforts to revive the national economy during the Depression decade. Quartermaster General J.L. Dewitt apparently had the N.C.O. quarters in mind when he said, "It is [the] desire of the War Department to start work immediately and relieve unemployment as soon as funds are released." In this growth period (1930-1939) 104 Noncommissioned Officers' family quarters were constructed. In addition, seven three-story enlisted men's barracks and fifty-eight Officers' family quarters were constructed between 1934 and 1939 for the 1st Cavalry Division. This phenomenal growth set the stage for a horse cavalry post with a strategic role and location on the border. In fact, on the eve of World War II, two horse cavalry posts remained: Fort Riley in Kansas, a cavalry post by tradition with a role as a cavalry training school, and Fort Bliss, the last fort with a strategic mission on the border.[50]

The one-story, brick, gable roof, Noncommissioned Officers' quarters were built in the Classical Revival style with Greek Revival features and continued the trend toward less ornamentation in trim detail. Natural concrete, tan sandstone, and brick were used in the lintels, sills, and porch trim. The gable roofs were covered with red ceramic mission tiles. New construction during the 1934-1940 period in the original post area changed the appearance of Fort Bliss with Mission and Spanish Colonial Revival styles predominating. The enlisted men's barracks and cavalry division offices and the two-story officers' family quarters had stuccoed, hollow tile,

construction with gable and hip roofs covered with red ceramic mission tile. In addition, eleven cavalry division stables, six blacksmith shops, and six stable guard quarters were part of this construction. They were brick, gable roof, buildings with natural concrete and wood trim, and asbestos shingles. Construction mushroomed in the areas adjacent to the original post area, with wood frame barracks and wood frame and brick service buildings and shops. Fort Bliss began to assume its modern appearance on the eve of World War II.[51]

The history of Fort Bliss during the 1930s was also tied to the development of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The First Cavalry Division managed the operation and enrolled and trained recruits of the Arizona-New Mexico District of the CCC. The First Division officers and men provided the nucleus of staff and the headquarters for training CCC companies which at one time totaled more the 62,500 men.[52]

The late Interwar years were difficult for the American military with the restraints of continued fiscal and isolationist policies. However, Fort Bliss continued its growth in the face of these policies chiefly because of its strategic location on the border. Construction continued in 1939 with new replacement barracks, stables, and Noncommissioned Officer family housing for the First Cavalry Division.[53]

I. FORT BLISS AND WORLD WAR II (1939-1943)

Fort Bliss, between 1890 and 1940 developed into a large and strong military facility with all the ingredients available to become a staging camp and a training center for World War II. Fort Bliss entered the World War II period as the largest cavalry post, and it ended the war as the nation's center for anti-aircraft artillery.[54] On 1 July 1939 Fort Bliss was one of 130 posts, camps, and military installations across the country. By the end of World War II, Fort Bliss was an immense facility. For instance, the official Army history of World War II showed that Fort Bliss was one of the three largest facilities for ground forces along with Camp Irwin at Barstow, California and the Desert Training Center, Indio, California.[55]

Fort Bliss was designated an approved troop reception center at the beginning of World War II. Another function of the post during the war was the induction of National Guard units. In the summer of 1940, the first of five National Guard units arrived. These units were the 200th, 202nd, 206th, and 266th Coast Artillery Regiments, and the 120th Air Corps Observation Squadron. Fort Bliss eventually had an active

strength of 436,000.[56]

The First Cavalry Division, which had seen service at Fort Bliss from 1921, continued its training as horse cavalry early in the war. However, the mission of the division was dramatically changed by 1943. It turned in its horses and horse equipment in early 1943, and the division was sent to the Pacific Theater to join the Sixth Army. The last elements of the former horse cavalry cleared Fort Bliss on 18 June 1943. After staging at Camp Stoneman, California, the First Cavalry Division left for training in Australia as infantry.[57]

When the First Cavalry Division departed from Fort Bliss, it marked a turning point in American military history - the horse cavalry in the United States passed into oblivion. Major General Verne D. Mudge spoke of this historic event in a speech to the sixth reunion of the First Cavalry Division in 1953 in El Paso, Texas. He said: "For it was we, who, hardly more than ten years ago, here at nearby Fort Bliss, saddled up for the last time; and as we unsaddled, and unhitched the limbers, an era ended - the horse was gone."[58]

The First Cavalry Division had a record of bloody and heroic fighting in the Pacific Campaigns. In the Admiralties Islands, the Division lost 326 killed and a total casualties of over 1,500. The Division lost over 900 troops at Leyte Gulf; only two divisions of the same command took higher losses. In the Battle of Manila, the division losses were estimated to be at 1,500.[51] According to the official history of the First Cavalry Division, they were the "first in Manila" and "first in Tokyo".[59]

After the war ended, the First Cavalry Division was serving in the occupation of Japan. General Douglas Macarthur summarized the Division's wartime service. "No greater record," Macarthur said, "has emerged from the war than the First Cavalry Division - swift and sure in attack, tenacious and durable in defense, and loyal and cheerful under hardship."[60]

When the First Cavalry Division left Fort Bliss for the Pacific, the transition from a cavalry to an artillery post was long underway. The four anti-aircraft regiments at the post had arrived many months before Pearl Harbor. When the First Cavalry Division departed, Fort Bliss officially became an artillery post.[61]

III. OUTLINE HISTORY OF THE 7TH CAVALRY TO 1943

A. THE EARLY YEARS (1866-1900)

The origin of the 7th Cavalry Regiment is based upon a long transformation of the US Army horse cavalry after the Civil War. However, the beginnings of the US Army Cavalry starts earlier with the birth of the United States. During the American Revolution against Britain (the bulk of the Continental Army was composed of infantry), the "cavalry" was applied to that branch of the military service whose members operated and fought on horseback. In North America, the traditional horse cavalry soldier was first known as "the light dragoon." The dragoon was trained and equipped to fight mounted or dismounted, and to perform screening and reconnaissance, and to act as a scout or messenger.[62]

The Civil War conflict saw the major growth of the horse cavalry. Before the War ended, 78 companies of cavalry served in the Union Army, and 101 companies of cavalry were in the Confederate Army. The Confederate Cavalry was the first to demonstrate the importance of the cavalry raid with the attacks led by Major General J.E.B. Stuart.[63]

In 1866 the ranks of the cavalry were so thin due to mass demobilization, as were other Army units, that military leaders believed that they could not perform their mission to cover the Indian threat in the West and to staff the chain of forts, posts, and camps established to protect settlers and to patrol the stage and railroad routes. As a result of this perception, Congress authorized four additional cavalry regiments. These new regiments were numbered 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th. The 9th and 10th regiments were composed of Negro enlisted men and white officers. A regiment, at this time, consisted of 12 companies (troops) formed into three squadrons of four troops each. The 7th Cavalry Regiment (one of the new units) was established 28 July 1866 in the Regular Army, and organized on 21 September 1866 at Fort Riley, Kansas.[64]

By 1868 the bulk of the cavalry was in the west with 92 companies stationed among 55 posts stretching from the Canadian border to the Rio Grande and from Kansas to California.[65] The 7th Cavalry Regiment served with distinction in various Indian War campaigns in the American West until June 1876 when the Sioux wiped out Colonel George A. Custer and nearly half (five troops) of the 7th Cavalry at the Little Big Horn. Partly as a result of this catastrophe, Congress voted a permanent increase in the mounted force. However, the cavalry fought its last Indian

battle of significance in the winter of 1890-1891 when it engaged the subdued Sioux at Wounded Knee Creek in southwestern South Dakota.[66] The 7th Cavalry Regiment, by the 1890s, had spent over 25 years in the Indian Wars.

B. THE MEXICAN REVOLUTIONARY YEARS (1900-1920)

With the end of the Indian threat, the cavalry turned to garrison and patrol duties until the Spanish-American War in 1898. Cavalry regiments served in Cuba and the Philippines during the next few years. Eight regiments including the 7th Cavalry saw service in the Philippines, at various times, through the first decade of the 20th century.[67] Increasing unrest on the northern Mexican border attracted the attention of military leaders. From 1901 to 1916 seven full cavalry regiments, more than one-half of all the cavalry in the US Army, were serving on the Mexican border. At the same time, two regiments were in the Philippine Islands, and one was in Hawaii.[68]

Prior to their final arrival at Fort Bliss, the 7th Cavalry Regiment had been stationed in the Philippines from 1911 to 1915. It sailed for San Francisco and Mexican border duty on 14 November 1915. The regiment entrained on the Southern Pacific Railroad at San Francisco to a temporary station at Douglas, Arizona. Their temporary Mexican border patrol duty in Arizona was interrupted on 13 March 1916 when they took the field as part of the Punitive Expedition into Mexico under the command of Brigadier General John J. Pershing. The 7th Cavalry was part of the First Provisional Infantry Brigade with Colonel John H. Beacon commanding.[69]

The Punitive Expedition into Mexico was chiefly a horse cavalry action, the last such major cavalry engagement in American history. The following is one action participated in by the 7th Cavalry units:

It was after a forced march through irregular terrain, during which the men were in their saddles for 17 hours out of 24, that the United States troops fought the only battle of the expedition directly concerned with Villa. On March 29, 1916 Col. George A. Dodd and 400 men of the 7th Cavalry surprised and attacked 500 Villistas at Guerrero.[70]

Lieutenant Colonel Selah R. H. "Tommy" Tompkins, of the 7th Cavalry, was a colorful figure in the Punitive Expedition. A veteran cavalryman remembered that during the Punitive

Expedition, Tompkins "took after a bunch of bandits for about 30 miles out into the desert, and it took 3 direct orders from (the) Southern Department before he turned back, he sure wanted to capture the rest of the bandits." Tompkins later commanded the 7th Cavalry Regiment in the 1919 raid across the San Lorenzo Ford to participate in the Juarez Race Track Skirmish.[71]

The regiment marched back from Mexico and arrived at Camp Stewart, a Fort Bliss auxiliary camp, on 10 February 1917, before moving into Fort Bliss on 23 May 1917 for their permanent home. After their arrival, the troops went into barracks for the first time after many hard days campaigning in Mexico. Their designated camp location was adjacent to the south end of the "old post" buildings, and they initially lived in temporary wood and canvas tents. Their permanent cantonment was built later in this same location. Assigned to Fort Bliss garrison and to border patrol duties that continued for the next 20 years, the 7th Cavalry established themselves as part of Fort Bliss and El Paso military tradition and social life. Their Mexican border patrol duty included horse cavalry patrols southeast along the Rio Grande River through the towns of Ysleta, Socorro, San Elizario, Fabens, and often as far as Marfa, Texas.[72] These patrol duties continued during 1918. On 15 July 1919 the patrol duties culminated in a raid across the border and the Rio Grande River at the San Lorenzo Ford near present day Ascarate Gulf Course in El Paso, Texas, to attack the Villistas who were threatening the lives of Americans in the locality. A sharp engagement lasted two hours before the bandits were driven back with heavy losses.[73]

During World War I the 7th Cavalry performed garrison duties at Fort Bliss and patrols along the Rio Grande. The monotonous garrison duty was broken each night when cavalry troop patrols rode from Fort Bliss to the Rio Grande (the International Boundary with Mexico) and returned about 11 PM.[74] These patrols demonstrated to the Mexican population and to United States citizens that American soldiers were present to prevent hostilities and banditry. In September, 1919, living conditions were enhanced for the 7th Cavalry when they began to move into their new one-story "U" shaped brick masonry barracks [75]; however, the entire new cavalry cantonment was not completed until 15 May 1920.[76]

C. THE 7TH CAVALRY IN THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION (1921-1940)

When the 7th Cavalry Regiment moved into their new barracks, regimental organization was based upon the plan in the National Defense Act approved on 3 June 1916. There were 12

lettered troops in 3 squadrons, a headquarters troop, a supply troop, and a machine gun troop. Enlisted strength in a cavalry line troop was fixed at 70 for peace and 105 for war.[77] During the 7th Cavalry Regiment's reorganization to First Division status, this regimental organization remained, but Troops D, H, I, K, L, and M and the Machine Gun Troop were dropped from the roster of the regiment. Troop D became the First Cavalry Division Headquarters Troop; Troop H became the Second Cavalry Brigade Headquarters Troop; the Machine Gun Troop became Troop A, Second Machine Gun Squadron. The entire 3rd Squadron became inactive. Due to numerous discharges the regiment was reduced to barely enough soldiers to maintain the horses and post in proper condition.[78] For instance, in 1920 regimental strength was 35 officers and 1,046 enlisted men. By 1921 regimental strength was reduced to 35 officers and 341 enlisted men.[78]

The following is the traditional table of organization for the 7th Cavalry troops and horses. Horse color differences were introduced in 1914:

UNIT	HORSE COLOR	SQUADRON
----	-----	-----
Troop A	black	1st
" B	sorrel	"
" C	bay	"
" D	bay	"
" E	bay	2nd
" F	bay	"
" G	bay	"
" H	sorrel	"
" I	bay	3rd
" K	bay	"
" L	brown and dark bay	"
" M	bay	"
Machine Gun Troop	black	
Band	black	
Headquarters Troop	black	

[79]

Throughout the 1920s and 1930s the 7th Cavalry and the First Cavalry Division as well as the rest of the interwar Army struggled to perform their mission in the face of general apathy regarding military preparedness. Appropriations declined steadily from 1921 on, to the point that military maneuvers were restricted and the 7th Cavalry spent most of their time in garrison duties at Fort Bliss and in border patrol. Although the fortunes of the horse cavalry began to decline seriously in the Army in the United States, the 7th Cavalry and First Cavalry

Division units from Fort Bliss continued to perform border patrol with the cavalry horse in areas where only the horse could patrol efficiently.[80]

Although, General Pershing said: "There is not in the world today, an officer of distinction, recognized as an authority on military matters in a broad way, who dares not declare with emphasis that cavalry is as important today as it ever has been", the cavalry was on its way out as a military force. A major blow to the horse cavalry came in 1933 when the Army's policy emphasized mechanization. Accordingly some cavalry units began to be mechanized, and others saw that the tide had started to ebb against the future of the cavalry. For instance, on 18 April 1934 the War Department declared that the cavalry saber was an obsolete weapon in modern warfare. As a result, the saber, symbol of the glamour traditionally associated with the cavalry, was discontinued.[81] Although the horse cavalry had lost much of its importance to some military planners, the First Cavalry Division at Fort Bliss continued to operate successfully and efficiently with the horse during the 1930s.

D. WORLD WAR II

The horse cavalry made its last appearance as a united force during combat practice maneuvers in Louisiana in 1940-1941 when the two cavalry divisions and a brigade of the Texas National Guard performed creditably. Some military experts hoped that this exploit might win the cavalry a reprieve for participation in World War II. However, in March, 1942, the office of Chief of Cavalry was abolished, and in February, 1943, the First Cavalry Division was dismounted (including the 7th Cavalry). The former horse soldiers were trained as infantry for jungle fighting and shipped to the Pacific war theater on 16 June 1943. The 7th Cavalry lost its identity as a horse cavalry unit and departed Fort Bliss for the last time with the First Cavalry Division. The Division retained its designated name, even though it went into World War II combat campaigns in the Pacific Theater as infantry. [82]

E. Outline History of the 7th Cavalry Regiment Cantonment

The buildings in the 7th Cavalry cantonment were designed by the US Army Construction Division architects from standardized cantonment plans developed during World War I. The building designs were based upon Army post plans and building construction

styles that evolved out of Civil War. For instance, by the turn of the 20th century, the War Department was compiling an "Album of Building Plans" for the Army that was to be a guide for new construction. The album shows not only new style buildings, but also improved styles dating from the Civil War era.[83] In addition, the Construction Division of the Army published a "Manual of the Construction Division" in nine sections.[84] Both of these publications were useful for Army architects in planning post layout plans and selecting building types for new construction projects. The "Album" has illustrations of floor plans and elevations of barracks, and there are written instructions for cantonment plans and layout plan examples.[85] For instance, the "Manual" states that new cantonments (such as the 7th Cavalry Cantonment) were to be constructed based upon a series of blocks for each military unit. Enlisted men's barracks were to be constructed in one block. Outside of this block at one end, officer's quarters were to be placed, and at the other end stables and spaces for vehicles were to be built. By repetition of blocks, indefinite expansion is possible, where the cantonments are located in open areas. By adoption of one or more of these typical blocks, a cantonment and camp can be planned. Examples of post layout plans and construction plans are shown from northern and southern areas of the United States, but there are no illustrations or descriptions from Fort Bliss.[86]

The 7th Cavalry building design and the cantonment layout plan are not specifically illustrated or described in the available Manual of the Construction Division or in the Album of Building Plan. However, these standardized references were normally used by the Supervising Architect in Washington, by the Constructing Quartermaster (with approval of the post commander), and by the Quartermaster General's Office to select the appropriate building style and plan and cantonment design for the post. Once the building design was selected, standardized architectural drawings were available from the Washington offices of the Quartermaster General or the Supervising Architect. The Constructing Quartermaster, at the site, could submit building plan or cantonment plan alterations for approval to the various Washington offices. Local changes by the Constructing Quartermaster were often accepted by the Quartermaster General's Office as long as required specifications were maintained. For instance, the original plans for the 7th Cavalry Cantonment specified wood frame buildings. However, the Constructing quartermaster at Fort Bliss discovered that there were large quantities of surplus brick available. Therefore, the decision was made to construct the buildings of brick rather than wood.[87] Standardized architectural plans and specifications were still used. These procedures would have been followed at Fort Bliss by the Constructing Quartermaster, and the construction plans for the buildings indicates standardized

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building plans were used "(HABS No. TX-3339-4 through 6)"

Of the nine volumes of the Manual of the Construction Division of the Army, only "Section C. Engineering Division" is available for this report. This volume (Section C, Engineering Division) has elevations of typical buildings for northern and southern construction similar to the 7th cavalry mess halls (but in wood frame),[88] and there are drawings of sliding window details similar to those in the 7th Cavalry buildings "(HABS No. TX-3339-7)".[89]

US Army post construction has a long tradition based upon ancient Roman military camps with the arrangement of buildings conforming to a hierarchical organization. The main buildings of most camps were positioned in an orderly block pattern on each side of a large parade ground with quarters for officers occupying one side, and with barracks on the opposite side.[90] At Fort Bliss, the 7th Cavalry Cantonment layout plan continued this hierarchical division with separation of quarters for officers from quarters for enlisted men, stables, and service buildings. This was accomplished by extending the original 1893-1894 linear plan of the parade ground to the southeast in order to accommodate the new buildings. The original "Officers' Row", barracks for enlisted men, stables, and service buildings were also extended to the southeast "(HABS No. TX-3339- 2 and 8)". Therefore, the quarters for officers were constructed across the parade ground from the 7th Cavalry barracks for enlisted men, stables, and other buildings. Thus, the 7th Cavalry cantonment's linear plan of quarters for enlisted men on the east side of the parade ground, and quarters for officers on the west side, continued to maintain the traditional hierarchy of military building organization. The stables and service buildings were located adjacent to the enlisted men's quarters on the same side of the parade ground "(HABS NO. TX-3339-9)".

The construction of the 7th Cavalry Cantonment in 1919-1920 was an important and symbolic factor during Fort Bliss' early development as a horse cavalry post. The cavalry cantonment was one of the major permanent construction projects at Fort Bliss in the early 20th century, and it was a recognition by military planners that Fort Bliss was to be a permanent cavalry post. The cantonment buildings were constructed by Major L. D. Blauvelt and Harvey R. Field, Constructing Quartermasters, using hired civilian labor from El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico.[91] When completed, the 7th Cavalry cantonment was a major cog toward making Fort Bliss a major cavalry post.

Funds for the 7th Cavalry Cantonment came from the Army appropriations line item "Barracks and Quarters" under the

Quartermaster Funds in the 1919-1920 War Department budget. The funds required no hearing or separate budget, and construction bids were received and approved by the Construction Division of the Quartermaster Corps. The construction funding was formally approved by the Secretary of War. Thus, the 7th Cavalry buildings at Fort Bliss were funded out of general appropriations.[92] Surplus construction materials left over from World War I building projects were shipped to Fort Bliss from camps that were being closed and from other posts where the materials were stored. The surplus materials allowed more construction than was originally planned.[93] The availability of surplus material also permitted the cantonment buildings to be constructed of brick masonry rather than wood frame.

The El Paso Morning Times reported on 16 February 1919 [94] that the Secretary of War approved \$375,000 for the construction of the 7th Cavalry Cantonment, and on 6 March 1919, [95] that construction had begun. Twenty days later, the Times reported on 26 March 1919 [96] that work was being delayed because of the high cost of materials and shortage of labor. Finally, the Times reported on 17 May 1919 [97] that construction had begun under the direction of Major L. D. Blauvelt, Constructing Quartermaster. The Times subsequently reported on 20 July 1919 [98] that Major Blauvelt was discharged, and was replaced by his assistant Captain Harvey R. Field. Blauvelt and Field organized and supervised the construction of the following buildings in the 7th Cavalry Regiment Cantonment:

- 1 administration building
- 28 officer's quarters
- 1 officer's mess hall
- 1 officer's assembly building
- 15 mess halls
- 15 double barracks for enlisted men
- 17 lavatories
- 1 medical building
- 1 guard house
- 1 post exchange
- 2 storehouses
- 1 hay shed
- 9 blacksmith shelters
- 15 stable guards
- 19 stables

Total 127

[99]

The Times also reported on 17 May 1919 [100] that six hundred men were being used in the construction. The work included construction of water utilities, sewers, electric lighting systems, and hard surface roads through the area.

Bids also were being accepted for construction of a second cavalry cantonment to house the 82nd Field Artillery Regiment. The decision was made by the Constructing Quartermaster to build the second cavalry cantonment because the 82nd Field Artillery could use it. If an artillery cantonment were constructed, it could only be used by the artillery. It would be less adaptable for future use.[101] On 12 June 1919, the El Paso Morning Times [102] reported that El Paso contractor, V. E. Ware, was awarded the contract for the construction of a cantonment similar to that of the 7th Cavalry for the 82nd Field Artillery. Like the 7th Cavalry construction, the materials used were to be surplus construction stocks accumulated during World War I.[103]

In a memorandum dated 13 December 1919 to the Commanding General, El Paso District, Captain Harvey R. Field, Constructing Quartermaster, reported that the 7th Cavalry Cantonment project was practically complete. He said the following:

Brick buildings, plastered inside, and with plaster board ceilings have been constructed within an appropriation intended to provide for temporary frame buildings without any lining of "walls" or "ceilings".[104]

In addition, Captain Field presented, in that memorandum, an extensive list of other work accomplished that was not included in the original appropriation. Field was demonstrating the capability and efficiency of his organization that could build cheaper than commercial contractors. Captain Field compared his costs with those of the contractor V. E. Ware in order to demonstrate that the Constructing Quartermaster's costs for similar construction were lower. He further shows that he was slowed somewhat due to the necessity to employ non-union workmen who had less skill and efficiency than union workers. As a result, the civilian workmen had to be constantly watched for idleness and slow work.[105]

With the completion of the cantonment, the quality of life for the 7th Cavalry soldiers was improved, and they began a routine of garrison life in Fort Bliss and border patrol along the Rio Grande River during the 1920s and 1930s. Social and sporting life at Fort Bliss relieved the pressure of long hot patrols and poor living conditions at the outlying border stations. For instance, during 1920 the 7th Cavalry under the leadership of Colonel S. H. R. Tompkins produced four champion

teams. The 7th Cavalry won title to the basketball championship of the El Paso Military District; the boxing championship of the Southern Department; the football championship of the Southern Department; and the right to play in the polo championship of the Army. The polo matches were the highlight of the Fort Bliss and the El Paso sporting and social season. After the 7th Cavalry Polo team won the Fort Bliss Christmas Tournament of 1919, they also won the right to represent the El Paso District and the Army in the California Tournament.[106] Sporting events, dances, dinners and parades during the 1920s and 1930s were morale boosters, and these events consistently brought together the 7th Cavalrymen and El Pasoans.

The 7th Cavalry and other Fort Bliss Army units brought cultural and sporting events to El Paso and other nearby communities during the early 20th century. Schools and libraries were available, and post chapels provided settings for religious services and weddings. Fort Bliss also provided opportunities for commercial enterprises, and goods and services were sold to the 7th Cavalry and other Fort Bliss units. In addition, the 7th Cavalry band provided entertainment in Fort Bliss, in El Paso parks, and in events in surrounding communities. Thus, defensive needs along the Mexican border were joined with public and community needs of El Paso settlers to produce a unique cultural blend of military and civilian life.[107]

IV. THE 7TH CAVALRY BUILDINGS

A. DESCRIPTION OF SPECIFIC BUILDINGS TO BE DEMOLISHED

The five buildings to be demolished by the U. S. Army Air Defense Center and Fort Bliss are two former barracks, two former mess halls, and a former post exchange. Each of these buildings has lost its historical integrity due to serious alterations and to adjacent permanent incompatible and obstructing construction. Three former barracks and three former mess halls, of exact design and measurements of the buildings to be demolished, will be retained. The former barracks and mess halls to be retained are not seriously altered and are located in one block of buildings with adequate building setbacks and landscaping suggesting a feeling of the original 7th Cavalry cantonment.

Building 440, completed as a 7th Cavalry Mess and Kitchen, at a cost of \$2,842.00, had a capacity of 110 enlisted men "(HABS No. TX-3339- A-1 through B-4)". The building served various 7th Cavalry troop units during the years 1920-1934. In 1925 it served as a mess and kitchen for the Machine Gun Squadron of the 7th Cavalry.[57] During 1934-1935 the building was converted into the 7th Cavalry Regimental Exchange and Storehouse when the regiment moved into their new multi-story barracks. Later the building was used as a Red Cross building, a Post Exchange, a Religious Education Facility, and the Center Chapel Chaplin's Administration building. The building's current use is by the Chaplin's office as religious meeting hall.[108]

Building 440 is a one-story, red brick structure with a concrete foundation and a concrete floor, approximately 21' (one bay main entrance) x 92'. The main entrance is through a wood frame vestibule added to the original building. The vestibule wood double doors have three horizontal panels, and there are four lights in the upper one-half of the doors. An additional wood door with five horizontal panels is on the northwest elevation. None of the doors are original. Ten wood sliding windows are on the northwest elevation and eight windows are on the southeast elevation "(HABS No. TX-339- 7)". A wood frame vestibule on the northeast elevation, and a wood frame, shed roof storeroom were added to the southeast elevation in 1944. Evaporative coolers were attached to several windows on the northwest and southwest elevations in 1958. The interior has been modified.

Because of the exterior additions and the presence of window air conditioners, the overall appearance of Building 440 as it is viewed from Merritt and Pershing Roads is a cluttered nondescript mass that retains little of its original integrity. During each successive use of the building, there were exterior

and interior modifications. For instance, a new door opening was added to the northwest elevation in place of a window, and a former door opening was sealed. Interior alterations include a drop acoustic ceiling, wood wall paneling, and new partitions.

Building 448, a 7th Cavalry double barracks and lavatory, was completed at a cost of \$9,161.06 with each barrack having the capacity for 48 men "(HABS No. TX-3339-C-1 through E-2; 10)". The building is located at the corner of Merritt and Pershing Roads, and across the road from the Center Chapel. The building served as barracks for various 7th Cavalry units including a troop of the Machine Gun Squadron in 1925.[109] Although the 7th Cavalry troops moved to new regimental barracks in 1934-1935, the building continued to be used as a barrack through World War II to approximately 1949. In 1949-1950 the barracks was converted into a School Reproduction Center, and by 1958 it was used as a Dependent's Nursery School. In 1979 the building use was changed to Administration General Purpose, and it became the present Center Chapel Chaplin's Administration Building. It is also used as the Protestant Religious Education Office, and for Junior Enlisted Wives Activities.[110]

Building 448, a one-story, rectangular-shaped red brick structure with concrete foundation and concrete floor has two wings 21' 6" x 141', and two wings 21' 6" x 49'. The overall dimensions are approximately 92' (13 bay front) x 141'. In a major modification, a one-story, red brick wing (21' 6" x 49') was added to the northeast elevation in 1954. This addition enclosed the former "U" shaped space giving the building an "O" shape with an interior courtyard. The main entrance is currently on the northwest elevation, but the original main "entrances" were on the rear gable ends that faced toward the former location of the stables. The former north wing gable end entrance has been sealed with brick. There are eight exterior wood doors. All have five horizontal panels, except for the double door entrances on the northeast and northwest elevations which have three wood panels and two-over-two lights. Single doors on each of the southwest and the northwest elevations are sealed with red brick. There are 55 wood sliding windows, three-over-three lights, with aluminum screens. Six windows on the northwest elevation one on the southwest elevation, two on the southeast elevation are sealed with red brick. The brick sealing these former windows is of uniform red color, and the color does not match the original masonry. The enclosed courtyard is entered from two double doors. The double door entrances on the northwest elevation and in the enclosed courtyard are alterations from the original single door

entrances. There is a natural concrete plaster and wood frame shed roof storage room addition on the southeast corner of the courtyard. In addition, an open metal sunshade with metal support posts is across the northeast end of the courtyard space. The interior of the building has religious administrative offices in the former open barrack spaces, and the office areas are divided by temporary wood partitions. The has been modified.

The character and integrity of Building 448 have been substantially changed due to the red brick masonry wing addition on the northeast elevation. The "U" shape that is distinctive for the typical enlisted men's barracks in the other 7th Cavalry Cantonment barracks is lost. The visual result of this addition is conspicuous dissimilarity with the typical buildings in the group. In addition, the red brick masonry of this addition does not conform to the mottled brick appearance of the original, and the visual impact is out-of-character with the adjacent 7th Cavalry buildings. Finally, the view of the building's front from the northeast does not portray the same sense-of-place that is evident in the rest of the 7th Cavalry area.

Building 445, completed as a 7th Cavalry Mess and Kitchen at a cost of \$2,469.82, was converted soon after its construction into a Non-Commissioned Officer's Club (N.C.O. Club). It is located in front of Building 451 "(HABS No. TX-3339 B-1 through B-4)". The building functioned as an N.C.O. Club until the early 1950s when it is identified as an Organization Day Room. In 1953-1954 it was used by the Headquarters Battery 4052, ASU. In 1966 it was designated as a Boy Scouts Building. Subsequently, it became a Youth Center with classrooms and meeting rooms for military dependent's children and continues in this use.[111]

Building 445, a one-story, red brick structure with concrete foundations and a concrete floor is approximately 21' (one bay gable end) x 92'. The main entrance (on the northeast elevation) is a double door that faces toward the barracks (Building 452), and a five-panel wood double door entry is on the northwest elevation. The double door entrance on the northwest elevation replaced the original single door entry that is sealed with red bricks. The red bricks used to seal the door are uniform in color, and are different from the original brick masonry that has mottled color. The building also has 20 wood sliding windows (three-over-three lights) forming strings of horizontal openings on the side elevations. The interior has been modified.

Building 452, a 7th Cavalry double barracks and lavatory, was completed at a cost of \$9,253.73 with each barrack wing having the capacity for 48 men "(HABS No. TX-3339-E-1 through

E-2; 10)". The building is located on Pershing Road, between Building 451 and the Pershing Swimming Pool (the former 7th Cavalry Swimming Pool). It is separated from the swimming pool by a chain link fence (located six to eight feet from the southwest elevation of the building). The rear facing "U" overlooks Pershing Road and an adjacent parking lot where the 7th Cavalry stables were formerly located. A recent swimming pool pump house is located close to the north wing, obstructing the view of the building from Pershing Road. It was used by various 7th Cavalry Troops during the years 1920-1934. For instance, the barracks would ordinarily have been used by Troop L if the normal sequence of letters from A to M was followed for assigning troops to barracks. When the 7th Cavalry Regiment moved from their 1920 cantonment (including Building 452 and 445) to the multi-story regimental barracks in 1934-1935, the buildings continued to be used as a barracks until approximately 1955. In 1944 there were 51 men billeted, and in 1950 it held 46 men. In 1951 it was occupied by the Army Training Aids Section organization, and in 1953 a PX Barber Shop was located in the northeastern end of the south wing. The barber shop is still located in the same wing at the present time. It was also a barracks for the Headquarters Battery, 4052 Army Service Unit. In approximately 1955 a portion of the building was occupied by the Officer's Wives Club for use as a ceramic craft center, and this use has continued. Part of the south wing including the former lavatory wing is still used by the Officer's Wives Club as their ceramic center. The north wing is used by the Girl Scouts for meetings and classes.

Building 452, a one-story, "U" shaped brick structure with concrete foundations and concrete and wood floors, has two wings of 21' 6" x 141" and a one wing 21' 6" x 49' that is attached at the southwestern end of the main wings, and an overall size of 92' (13 bay front) x 141. The rear facing "U" shaped wings have main entrances at the gable ends. The south wing gable end wood door has been changed to an aluminum and plate glass door. This entrance opens to the Barber Shop. The north wing gable end door is the typical five panel wood door. Overall, the building has 15 doors, and 80 wood sliding windows (three-over-three lights in the windows). In the "U" shaped yard area, two windows have been changed to door openings. Building 452 retains sub-floor vents and crawl spaces, with natural wood frames, at the base of the brick walls. Evaporator coolers were added in 1958, and there are six scattered around the building with platforms holding them at window level and with ducts connecting to the building. The interior of the building reflects modern usage and alterations with the barber shop using approximately one-half of the south wing. In this space a drop acoustic ceiling, paneling, and partitions have been added. Most of the building

has plasterboard ceilings with angled sides. A large room in the lavatory wing has several kilns for pottery firing and two windows with exhaust fans (on the southwest elevation). Some of the toilets date from the 1920s; however, most of the lavatory fixtures are from the 1950s. The heating system is by forced air furnaces, and a large gas-fired boiler in the lavatory was formerly used for steam radiators which are no longer present. The boiler is now used as a hot water heater for the barber shop and for the lavatory. The lavatory wing has concrete floors, and there are wood floors in the former barracks area.

The location of the Pershing Swimming Pool (almost abutting the southeast elevation of Building 452, the off street parking directly in front of the barber shop (northeast elevation), and a swimming pool utility building (adjacent to the north wing), detract from the integrity and character of the building. The congestion of adjacent structures and the appearance of the building significantly detracts from the sense of place that is evident in the adjacent former 7th Cavalry buildings.

Building 458, the 7th Cavalry Post Exchange (PX) was completed at a cost of \$5,127.02 on August 30, 1919 "(HABS No. TX-3339- F-1 through F-5)". The building is located on Pershing Road adjacent to the Pershing Swimming Pool, a basketball court, a wood frame Youth Center, and a tennis court. Pershing Road passes within a few feet of the northern corner of the building. An off-street parking area is located on the northwest elevation, and cars and trucks park within a few feet of the building. In 1919 the 7th Cavalry Exchange was a focal point of the 7th Cavalry Cantonment in its position at the center of the row of 15 double barracks. It was also located as a separate building between the barracks and the row of stables. The building continued in its function as a Post Exchange from 1919 through part of 1951. On 5 September 1951 rehabilitation was completed to convert the building into an Elementary School. By July, 1958, the building was a Teen-Age Club, and it has continued as a Youth Facility since that time.[112]

Building 458, a one-story, rectangular-shaped red brick masonry structure with a concrete foundation and a partial basement, is approximately 33' (eight bay front) x 92'. The present main entrance is located at northwest gable end (the northeast elevation was the original front of the building), and a paved parking area is within a few feet of this entry. The entrance door at this gable end is metal, but the 7 doors on the other elevations are wood five panel type. The exception is a wood door with four panels located on a wood frame shed roof addition on the northeast elevation. The southwest elevation has 12 windows and two doors that face toward an open storage area and basketball court that is surrounded by a chain-link fence.

This elevation also faces towards Building 456 (a rectangular wood frame structure constructed in 1941 as a PX Annex). The wood sliding windows are similar to those in the rest of the cantonment buildings with three-over-three lights, and there are natural pre-cast concrete lintels and red header brick sills. Several of the windows are sealed with plywood or painted. Five windows on the southwest elevation have exterior metal security bars and the glass is painted. The gable roof has grey composition shingles and open overhanging eaves. The cream painted wood trim includes the doors, windows, and the wood frame shed roof addition on the northeast elevation. The interior space and features have been altered. Gas furnaces have replaced the steam radiators that were installed in the early 1930s. The interior is currently used for youth recreation with various activities such as billiards, table tennis, and there is a snack bar.

Building 458 does not contribute to the sense of place represented by the other buildings. It is displaced from the other buildings and is visually overwhelmed by adjacent incompatible construction "(HABS No. TX-3339- F-1 through F-5)". The overall effect is cluttered and without integrity, especially with the parking area close to the building on the northeast gable end. In addition, the wood frame addition on the northeast corner further detracts from the original appearance.

B. OUTLINE HISTORY OF THE 7TH CAVALRY BUILDINGS

The eleven (11) buildings listed below were enlisted men's barracks, mess halls, and a post exchange. They were part of a larger group referred to as the 7th Cavalry Regiment Cantonment which included additional enlisted personnel barracks and mess halls, officer's quarters, a headquarters building, stables, storehouses, and other service buildings. These various buildings are identified below by number and original use. The buildings numbered 440, 445, 448, 452, and 458 will be demolished:

Building Number -----	Original Use -----
442-443 (two buildings joined)	Mess halls and kitchens
444	Mess hall and Kitchen
449	Double barracks and Latrine
450	Double barracks and Latrine
451	Double barracks and Latrine
440	Mess hall and Kitchen
445	Mess hall and Kitchen
448	Double barracks and Latrine
452	Double barracks and Latrine
458	7th Cavalry Exchange

The buildings proposed for the historic district form a rectangular group of three "U" shaped enlisted men's barracks and latrines and three associated buildings, each of which was used as a combination kitchen and dining hall (mess hall). These two types of buildings originally were constructed and used in pairs: one barracks and one mess hall in each pair. The buildings in this group exhibit Greek Revival influence in their overall vernacular appearance. Their similarity of scale, materials, and function combined with their compact grouping define a closely related set of buildings which are so isolated from visual incompatibilities that they generate a strong sense of place.

The buildings to be demolished are located on two sides of the proposed district. On one side, these buildings consist of an architecturally altered and incompatible "O" shaped building (formed from the original "U" shaped barracks, Building 448) and its associated, altered mess hall (Building 440) both of which are located to the northwest of the proposed district. On the southeast side of the proposed district, there is a visually obstructed and altered "U" shaped barracks (Building 452) and its associated mess hall (Building 445). Also on the southeast side is a former post exchange (Building 458) separated from the other 7th Cavalry buildings by a modern swimming pool. These altered and physically separated buildings will be demolished as part of the undertaking establishing a district having integrity of place and setting as well as overall architectural integrity.

C. ORIGINAL USE OF THE 7TH CAVALRY BUILDINGS

The 7th Cavalry Cantonment enlisted men's barracks, mess halls, and post exchange were built for the use of units of the

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horae cavalry who were assigned to Fort Bliss. They were used by units of the 7th Cavalry Regiment from 1919 through 1934 until larger three story barracks and offices and brick stables were constructed.

There were originally 15 double barracks and 15 Mess halla and Kitchens in the cantonment "(HABS No. TX-3339-2, 8, and 9)". The barracks and mess halls were built in parallel lines, the barracks in one line and the associated mess halls in the other. These pairs of buildings were used by cavalry regiment companies called troops with each troop identified by letter beginning with "Troop A". Troop A would normally have been billeted in the first barracks on the left (viewed from a point located northeast of the barracks where the former cavalry stables were located) with each additional troop occupying barracks in a sequence from left to right (Troops A through M). Each troop had its own kitchen and mess hall. The troops paraded in review in the same sequence.[113] Therefore, the remaining barracks and mess halls of the cantonment normally would have been occupied as follows:

Bldg. no.	Bldg use	Cavalry Troop	Squadron
-----	-----	-----	-----
451	Barracks	Troop M	3rd
444	Mess hall	Troop M	3rd
450	Barracks	Headquarters Troop	
443	Mess hall	Headquarters Troop	
449	Barracks	Service Troop (band and supply)	
442	Mess Hall	Service Troop	" " "
452	Barracks	Troop L	3rd
445	Mess hall	Troop L	3rd
448	Barracks	Machine Gun Troop	
440	Mess Hall	Machine Gun Troop	
458	Exchange (PX)	All troops	

Because of continuous reorganizations and merging of troops, the buildings were probably used at different times by any of the 3rd Squadron Troops designated I, K, L, M, or one of the units designated as the Headquarter's Troop, the Signal Corps Detachment, or the Service Troop (Supply and Band). Records showing when particular "troops" used the barracks and the mess and kitchens are not available.

D. OUTLINE OF THE 7TH CAVALRY CANTONMENT CONSTRUCTION

Completed in 1919-1920, the 7th Cavalry Cantonment is one of the last projects built by War Department Construction Division architects before the World War I organization was disbanded in 1920. The cantonment bears a striking resemblance to similar emergency "wood frame" cantonment buildings constructed in Army posts across the United States. These temporary wood frame structures lasted only a few years. Constructing Quartermaster Captain Harvey R. Field wrote the following: "Brick buildings, plastered inside, and with plaster board ceilings have been constructed with an appropriation intended to provide for temporary frame buildings without any lining of walls or ceilings." The permanent brick construction was accomplished by using brick and other materials which were shipped to Fort Bliss by railroad as surplus war stock.[114]

The 7th Cavalry Cantonment construction included the following: a headquarters building; one story brick bungalows with screened sleeping and kitchen porches; six half stables, 12' x 340'; thirteen double stables, 24' x 340'; nine blacksmith shelters; fifteen stable guard buildings; two storehouses, 20' x 98'; two lavatories for the stable guard; hay shed; water supply system; sewer system; outside electrical wiring; fences and gates; water troughs; and cement sidewalks for officers' quarters, barracks, and mess halls. When the cantonment was completed there were 161 buildings and structures "(HABS No. TX-3339-9)". [115]

The overall appearance of the cantonment buildings is dominated by grey shingle roofs and red brick masonry. The brick masonry is mottled with the colors varying from dark to light red, and the bricks have different degrees of hardness. The brick masonry is common bond (six or seven stretcher rows per header row), nine inches in thickness, and resting on concrete foundations. Even though the original request asked for wood frame buildings, the approved work specified brick construction.[116] The interior walls were originally plasterboard, wood boards, and painted brick. The buildings have brick buttresses with 12" bases that were part of the original construction. The Mess and Kitchen buildings have had two concrete buttresses added to the side elevations, although there are two original brick buttresses on each side.

The gable roofs originally were covered with asbestos shingles [117], but the present roofs are grey composition shingles. Metal truss rods and metal support plates that prevent the brick walls from bulging are in several locations. Also, metal support rods at the corners of most windows penetrate the

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brick walls in order to tie the bricks together to prevent bulging. No record exists identifying when the rods were installed, but similar truss rods were installed in the years 1929-1932 in the 82nd Field Artillery Cantonment buildings (similar buildings constructed at the same time, but now demolished). Buildings 449-451 have chimneys, but similar chimneys of this type were added to 82nd Field Artillery Cantonment barracks during the years 1930-1932 "(HABS No. TX-3339-D-2 through D-3)". They were constructed by troop labor. It is likely that the truss rods and the chimneys were added to the 7th Cavalry buildings at approximately the same time.

Interior building use changed as the needs of the 7th Cavalry and the US Army shifted. For instance the barracks and mess and kitchens retained their original use as the home of the 7th Cavalry from 1919 to 1934. Then, in 1933 funds became available under the National Industrial Recovery Act to build new three-story regimental barracks and new stables.[118] When the new barracks were completed, the 7th Cavalry moved from the 1919 buildings to their new quarters. Most of the original 127 buildings of the 1919 cantonment were demolished. The few buildings in the area that were retained continued to be used for barracks, offices and mess and kitchens for various Fort Bliss troops into the 1960s. In the 1960s the use of the buildings shifted to community, youth, religious, and dependent services, and the interiors were repaired and renovated. New partitions were added to adapt the buildings for offices, classrooms, meeting rooms, and craft shops.

Utilities in all of the buildings in the cantonment were modified as new heating and lighting systems were installed. The original coal stove heaters were replaced in 1934 by natural gas fired Arcola boilers and steam radiators. Three or four radiators were installed in the mess and kitchens and 13 radiators in the enlisted men's barracks. The current heating systems in the buildings are forced air gas furnaces. The lighting system installed in 1919 was incandescent light bulbs. The wiring was placed in conduits between 1927 and 1929. This system was repaired and enlarged as the buildings were modified to meet new building codes. Beginning in the 1950s, there was a change to hanging florescent lighting, and all of the buildings now have this system, but with a scattered use of incandescent lights.[119] The lavatory fixtures in all of the buildings date from the 1920s to the 1950s.

Grass is used as the predominant landscaping vegetation, along with occasional cedar and pine trees and shrubs. The barracks and mess halls and kitchens within this area, are separated from street traffic by the concrete walks and landscaping on the northeast and by open space grass and

playgrounds on the southwest. Buildings 440, 448, 452, and 458 have off-street parking within a few feet of the structures. In addition, Buildings 445, 452, and 458 have their appearance visually cluttered with encroaching assorted intrusive buildings including a swimming pool and utility structures, a basketball court, and a multi-purpose recreational court.

E. FUTURE USE OF THE SITE

Six former 7th Cavalry Regiment Cantonment buildings remaining on the site at Fort Bliss will be part of a historic district. Three former barracks (Buildings 449, 450, and 451) and three former mess halls and kitchens (Buildings 442, 443, and 444) will be rehabilitated for the historic district and for future missions at Fort Bliss. The overall setting for the buildings will be improved with building setbacks from roads and other buildings. Landscaping with grass, shrubs, and trees will be maintained.

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